

ALBERTA REGIONAL OFFICE

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Talking points re: ATA Strike

Updated October 6, 2025, 5:45pm mountain time

General

- Education Support Workers support Teachers in their fight for better classroom conditions.
- We know Teachers love their students and are fully committed to educating them. We know how hard they work, and we know they are striking as a last resort.
- Alberta has the lowest education funding of any province in Canada. Teachers, students and parents all deserve better.
- Earlier this year, Education Support Workers fought our own battle for better learning conditions and more resources. We know the Teacher's issues firsthand because they are our issues too. We support the Teachers 100%.

On layoffs and the role of support staff during the strike

- At this point, most School Divisions have not issued any layoff notice to Support Staff. Custodial and Maintenance workers are doing deep cleaning and maintenance work, some Districts are doing staff training, and other districts have given staff alternate duties.
- Two small districts have issued layoff notice of members.
- If the province chooses to cut funding to School Districts, like they did during the pandemic, there would likely be large scale layoffs.
- The province's decision to lockout Teachers is worrying, as it may lead to funding cuts and layoffs of School Support Workers.
- We are telling Support Staff to not do the work of Teachers, and to contact their job stewards if they are asked to do so.

For members concerned about EI

- We believe that in the event of layoffs, members will be eligible for Employment Insurance. However, there are complications that make it difficult to predict how our claims will be handled. We expect that outcomes will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

On the promise of 1,500 new education assistants

- The promise of 1,500 new positions is promising and sorely needed. However, we are disappointed that the UCP are not fulfilling their election promise to hire 3,000 new educational assistants.

:LA/dlw/cope491

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